



Modern
German Studies
Graduate Seminar

15th Annual German Graduate Symposium, 21st of April 2018, University of Oxford

CALL FOR PAPERS: PERFORMING PHILOSOPHY

German literature has a long reputation for being 'philosophical'. In our seminars this academic year we have examined how the interaction between philosophy and literature opens up questions of what it means to be either kind of text. The notion of *performing*, rather than merely *doing*, philosophy speaks to the continental tradition of philosophy as an historical, embodied practice. At the same time, it can encourage consideration of aspects of philosophical texts which can be deemed 'performative' (style, genre and convention). These are areas where an interdisciplinary, even literary, approach to philosophy may open up a new space in examinations of philosophical texts. Under the heading of 'Performing Philosophy' we aim also to examine philosophy's usefulness for the study of literature and other performative arts. This might encompass discussion of how philosophy is performed or enacted in 'non-philosophical' texts. We wish as well to see how philosophy relates to dramatic performance: how it might be used to understand it, or how philosophical principles may be dramatically embodied in it.

We invite papers on a wide variety of texts from the early modern period to the present day. Topics might include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

- Theory as practice
- Literature doing the work of phenomenology
- The figure of the philosopher in German literature
- The philosophy of film, or of other performative media such as dance, drama, radio, music
- Philosophical implications of embodied or technologically mediated performance
- Mimesis
- Historicity and materialism
- Rituals, myths and religiosity
- Philosophical and dramatic dialogue
- Metaphors and thought experiments
- Philosophy as performance: non-traditional philosophical texts
- Spectatorship, observation and reception

Papers presented should be no longer than 30 minutes in length. We look forward to receiving abstracts of up to 250 words by **Monday, 19th of March 2018**.

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